

<http://worldfocus.org/blog/2009/10/05/amid-iran-nuclear-talks-dont-forget-human-rights/7605/>

For the past 15 years, Dwight Bashir has worked on international conflict, human rights and religious freedom issues. He is a senior advisor for an independent **U.S. commission focusing on international religious freedom.**

The views expressed here are his own personal views.

Now that the P5+1 (the United States, Britain, France, Russian, China + Germany) have embarked on multilateral negotiations with the Iranian government, it is time to look forward, not backward. The one-day talks in Geneva held last week will resume after an October 25 visit to Iran by representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to assess Iran's newly-declared nuclear facility.

As expected, international attention has focused on Iran's apparent willingness to send most of its enriched uranium out of the country and to allow the IAEA to inspect its latest facility. What has not received adequate attention is what happened on the fringes of the formal talks — separate discussions between American and Iranian diplomats on human rights.